

Message Text

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FROM LOW

E.O.11652: XGDS
TAGS: PINT, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MOZAMBICAN HELP ON ALL PARTY TALKS

1. GRAHAM AND I PULLED SERGIO VIEIRA ASIDE BEFORE LUNCH WEDNESDAY JULY 5, I TOLD HIM THAT WE FELT THAT THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH. SMITH WAS NOW PREPARED TO COME TO AN ALL PARTY MEETING BUT HE WANTED IT UNANNOUNCED AND CONFINED TO PRINCIPALS. WE HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO HIM THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE MARCH 3 AGREEMENT. IT APPEARED TO US THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE CURRENT REGIME TO HOLD A CREDIBLE ELECTION WHICH WOULD GAIN INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE AND END THE WAR. THEY PROBABLY REALIZE THIS AND MIGHT TRY TO TRANSFER POWER WITHOUT AN ELECTION. THE DEVELOPMENTS SEEMED TO US TO BE OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE THAT IT WOULD BE WORTH REVIEWING THEM WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL AND GETTING HIS ADVICE ON HOW TO APPROACH MUGABE. ANY PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THIS PROPOSAL COULD DESTROY IT.

2. VIEIRA TOOK CAREFUL NOTE. HE SAID HE THOUGH THE INTERNAL SITUATION WAS DETERIORATING AND THAT
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BOTH SIDES WERE LOSING CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY FORCES. SMITH'S BLACK ARMY WAS BEGINNING TO TAKE MATTERS INTO ITS OWN HANDS. VIEIRA DID NOT RESPOND TO MY QUESTION ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HAMADZIRIPI DEFECTION. HE DID ASK ABOUT REPRESENTATION AT THE MEETING. WHETHER THE UN WOULD BE PRESENT, ETC. WE STRESSED THE CONFIDENTIAL AND RESTRICTED NATURE

OF THE MEETING AND HE NODDED AGREEMENT. VIEIRA THEN PROPOSED THAT WE FIRST MEET WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL LATER IN THE DAY. (THIS WAS COMPLICATED BY THE STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT LUIS CABRAL OF GUINEA BISSAU) VIEIRA SUGGESTED WE WAIT BEFORE SEEING MUGABE UNTIL MACHEL HAD TALKED TO HIM.

2. WE LATER WERE NOTIFIED OF OUR MEETING WITH MACHEL AT THE PALACE AT 6:00 PM IN THE EVENING. ONLY MACHEL, VIEIRA AND AMBASSADOR DE PREE WERE PRESENT BESIDES US. MACHEL GAVE US A LITTLE LECTURE ABOUT THE SITUATION. HE SAID WE SHOULD GET RID OF SMITH AND NODDED IN FULL AGREEMENT WHEN GRAHAM SAID HE WAS LEAVING BUT WANTED TO DO SO HONORABLY. MACHEL SAID HE FULLY ACCEPTED THAT. I PRESENTED THE PROPOSAL AND OUR REQUEST FOR HIS ADVICE AS I HAD IN THE AFTERNOON TO VIEIRA. MACHEL ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACCEPTED IT. HE SAID IF WE GOT SMITH HE WOULD GET THE PATRIOTIC FRONT THERE AND ADDED THAT MUGABE WAS WAITING IN THE OTHER ROOM TO SEE HIM AFTER WE LEFT. THE MEETING HE SAID, SHOULD DISCUSS HOW TO END THE WAR HE ACCEPTED THE VENUE (HUNTING LODGE IN BOTSWANA) AND DATE OF LATE JULY WITH APPROVING NODS. MACHEL SAID THE ONLY IMPORTANT PERSON TO HAVE AT THE CONFERENCE WAS SMITH. WHETHER MUZOREWA OR SITHOLE CAME ALONG OR NOT WAS IMMATERIAL
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LATER COMMENTING ON MY DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITY OF THEIR TRANSFERRING POWER WITH OUT AN ELECTION. MACHEL FAIRLY JUMPED OUT OF HIS SEAT WITH HIS PREDICTION OF THE BLOODY CONSEQUENCES. THE WHOLE MEETING LASTED ONLY ABOUT 20 MINUTES.

3. COMMENT AMBASSADOR DE PRESS FOUND MACHEL MORE READY TO COOPERATE IN OUR EFFORT THAN AT ANY PREVIOUS TIME. THE SCENARIO OF CONFIDENTIAL TALKS CLOSER TO THEIR OWN INDEPENDENCE EXPERIENCE THAN THE MORE PUBLICIZED MEETINGS LIKE GENEVA. VIEIRA AND MACHEL CONTINUE TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE THREAT FROM THE BLACK ELEMENTS OF RHODESIA DEFENSE FORCES.
DE PREE

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